THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. GAIL propose to implement the National Gas Grid Project linking various sources of gas to demand centers with natural gas pipelines, in a phased manner. As per the preliminary estimates, the Phase-I of the National Gas Grid involves approximately 7,900 Kms. of pipeline and an expenditure of Rs. 20,000 crore. The Phase-I of the project is expected to be completed in 5-7 years, depending upon the availability of gas and marketing tie up.

(c) GAIL follows the procedure of international competitive bidding for all tenders where the value of order is more than Rs. 5 crores.

Lottery system for dealership selection

1491. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines prescribed by Government for selection of dealers/distributors for allotment of petrol pumps, gas agencies etc. by the public sector oil companies; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to direct the public sector undertakings to allot dealership to candidates fulfilling the criteria laid down by Government on the basis of lottery system and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are authorized to select dealers/ distributors for retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships on the basis of guidelines adopted by them. The Government have only advised the OMCs to observe certain broad parameters in the guidelines, and these parameters do not include any suggestion for allotment of dealerships/ distributorships through the system of lottery.

Dealership selection Guidelines

1492. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to remove the informal ban